

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

A substitute Abstract has been submitted to replace the original Abstract. The substitute Abstract has been prepared to overcome the informalities objected to by the Examiner.

Accordingly, this ground of rejection is deemed to be overcome.

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to include the limitations of claim 5. Claim 5 has been cancelled without prejudice. In addition, the remainder of the claims have been amended as necessary to conform to the amendments of claims 1 and 12.

Claims 1-4, 10-13, 15-16 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Yamaguchi et al.

This ground of rejection is deemed to be overcome in view of the foregoing amendments which incorporate the subject matter of non-rejected claim 5 into claims 1 and 12.

The Applicants acknowledge with thanks the Examiner's indication that claims 5-9 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The foregoing amendments are deemed to effectuate this suggestion.

Claims 17, 19-23 and 25-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable of Yamaguchi et al. and further in view of Kobayashi et al.

This ground of rejection is also deemed to be overcome by incorporation of the subject matter of non-rejected claim 5 into the subject matter of claims 1 and 12.

Lastly, claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as unpatentable over Gerkin et al.

Claim 18 has been revised into method of making form. Claim 18 has further been amended to require that the elastomer film or sheet produced by the method is the elastomer film or sheet according to claim 17, which comprises the thermoplastic elastomer of claim 1 or 12.

Accordingly, this ground of rejection is deemed to be overcome in view of the allowability of claims 1 and 12.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that each ground of rejection set forth in the Official Action has been overcome that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, such allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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March 7, 2005

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Substitute Abstract (p. 142, 1 sheet)